BYAAAH!!!

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NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

HERE'S THE 6TH VOLUME OF THE MANGA: KAGE TORA
FOR THE FANS BY A FAN.
REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED) CROPPED) CLEANED) SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, GO BUY IT FOR
YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR OWN VERSION..
ANYHOW ENJOY!

SCANNED: SEPT '07
NEXT UP: NO IDEA YET
NOTE: SCANNED PER REQUEST.
MORE TO COME SOON,
WITH SOME NEW SERIES TOO.
GONNA START DATING MY RELEASES,
I FORGET WHEN I DID THEM :D
PLUS IT SHOWS, HOW LONG BEFORE YOU
OTHER PEAOPLE HAVE READ THEM.

TILL NEXT TIME, ENJOY!

RU

6

デルレイ

KAGETORA

6

AKIRA SEGAMI

Ballantine Books

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Kagetora is a ninja with the most important duty in his village—to serve and instruct Yuki, the pretty young heir to the Toudou martial arts family. There's just one problem: Kagetora has fallen in love with her. More trouble looms when Yuki's overprotective best friend, Aki, needs someone to pose as her boyfriend. Although Aki has never trusted Kagetora, she now sees him in an attractive new light. But the biggest threat to Kagetora's hopes of romance turns out to be Yuki's intimidating grandmother, who threatens everything between master and ninja.

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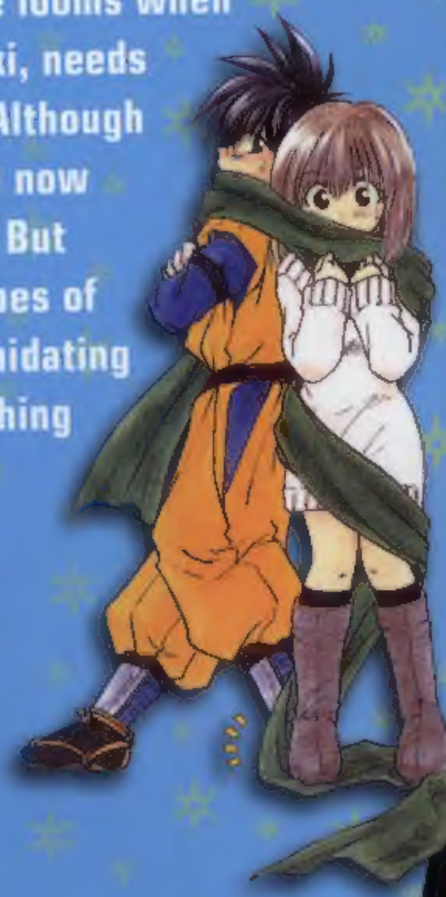

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KAGE TORA

AKIRA SEGAMI

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

Akira Segami

TRANSLATED BY
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ADAPTED BY
Nunzio DeFilippis & Christina Weir

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

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KAGETOR

A Note from the Author

I bought an SLR to use when I go out for research. I haven't learned anything, I'm just trying to get used to it first. But I'm having a really hard time. So if you see a person (or a frog) in the city holding a camera awkwardly, that might be me . . . (laugh)

Segami

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san," and it is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

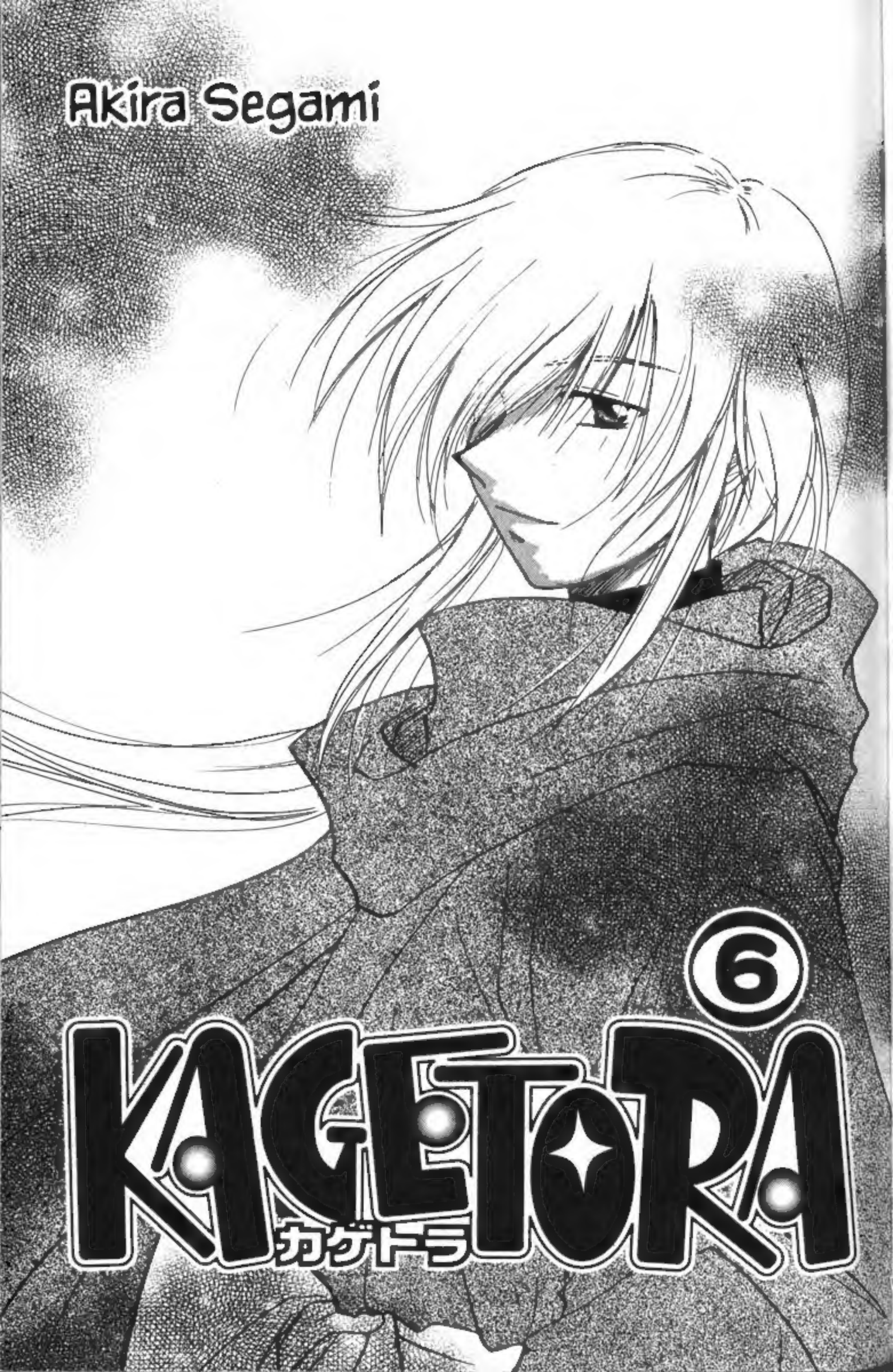
Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as yobisute, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Akira Segami



KAGETORA 6

カゲトラ

And so...

...Mari also got a boyfriend.

KAGETORA

Huh!?

Really!?

I want to meet him.

I know!

Uh, yeah.

I see.

How about you?

You have a boyfriend too, right?

We are seniors now.

...why don't you bring him?

Good idea!

In Use
Megumi Igawa
090112XXXX

Since we're meeting up this weekend...

Uh...

EH!?

SERIOUSLY!?

26 Kagetora and Aki on a Date?

Okay, then let's start practice.

Then let's start with some swinging practice.

DRRRRSH.

I'll work hard today, too!

BOW

SLIDE

Okay!

Kiritani?

Aki-chan?

Did you have practice today?

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

• • • • • •

GRAB

!?

TUG

Kiritani !?

Kagetora, I'm borrowing you for a sec!

STARE

I guess he'll have to do...

Aki-chan?

?

What!?

Were they that close?

?

?

CONFUSED

TUG

TUG

Hey!

Where are we going?

Kagetora.

TURN

...

Geez...

What the heck is going on!?

Huh!?

Can you go out with me tomorrow?

URGH

Um, so...

Then what is it?

No! It's not like that.

Is this a challenge?

Will we Finally fight?

...act like my boyfriend for just one day.

I'm going to go see my friends tomorrow...

And I want you to... um...

There are... some circumstances.

Why do I...

But if it's just acting, it doesn't have to be me. There's Ono and the other guys...

No. You have to *act* like my boyfriend.

What!? I'm going to be your boyfriend!?

And if it's you, as long as you keep quiet, you're good-looking...

You would pass.

WHISPER

That's true...

Those guys are afraid of me, so I don't think they'll work.

UNDERSTOOD

I guess it won't work.

Er...

But I have practice with Hime tomorrow...

But now I have no one to ask...

RUFFLE

All right.

To think that Kiritani is asking me for a favor...

Hmmm.

Wow, I'm surprised.

I figured, but I wanted to ask you just in case.

She must really have no one else to ask.

I don't really understand her circumstances, but...

Hm.

PHEW

Really!?

Thanks a lot, Kagetora.

They say when you know what needs to be done and don't do it, you're a coward.

Okay! If you want me to do it, I'll do it.

Oh, there they are.

Thanks. So...

ひそひそ

PEEK

I suppose I owe you anyway.

So it's okay?

Sure.

They were taking so long I came to look for them.

What are they talking about?

A date!?

Huh!?

Then we shall go on a date tomorrow!!

Then I'll give you details later tonight.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

I under-stand.

Oh! And it's a secret from the other guys, all right?

I should return to practice.

Me and Kiritani on a date...

This is certainly weird.

But I had no choice.

.....

DAZED

Hime.

Sorry to keep you waiting.

SLIDE

!?

TH-THUMP

Hime?

Is she mad because I took so long?

She's acting weird...

TMP TMP

It's nothing. Let's practice!

?

Nope!

SHAKE SHAKE

Is something the matter?

. . . . . .

Kiritani.

The Next Day

AMUSEMENT PARK

Kagetora?

You're early.

Fifteen minutes...

You told me to come in a normal outfit.

Yeah, but...

You look different.

I didn't recognize you.

Note: Kagetora

Talk normally!!

But don't talk like a ninja.

That's weird!

Okay.

Is it weird?

No...

Of course, I didn't tell him about you.

When I told Ikoma, he got really into it.

HAVING FUN

And let's gel your hair like this.

You should go in black! Since you're a ninja.

That's true.

Understood.

Oh, and one more thing. Call me "Akino" today.

It's weird if my boyfriend calls me by my last name.

Akino!

Oh, there she is.

Berabou Park

Right!

GRIP!

Then we'll get through this together!!

Your friends?

Yeah, Mari and Megumi.

Nice to meet you!

You really brought your boyfriend!!

Hey! Long time no see.

Oh, right!

That's your cue!

What's your name?

POKE

I'm Kagetora Kazama... Akino's boyfriend.

Nice to meet you.

SMILE

.....

WHISPER

?

WHISPER

Uh... yeah?

I didn't know your standards were this high.

He's cute!

He *is* cute.

I don't really know how to talk to girls...

HMMM...

I wonder if that was okay.

TUG

Okay, let's go.

Hey, Kiri... I mean, Akino...

We have movie tickets.

Shall we go?

The movie's starting.

Okay.

COME COME

WHISPER

Don't act that way, stupid. They'll find out.

Oh, right...

.....

Are they really going out?

They said "boy-friend"...

it was bothering me so I followed them...

it really was a date...

KYE

FLIP

He has a duty. Going on dates is uncalled for!!

KYE!

Let's follow them and find out!

FLIP

Wait, Kosuke!

Let's go!

JUMP

Kosuke! Wait for me...

Er...

GRRRAAAAGGGHH

Megumi is a horror fanatic.

Why a horror film?

Of all things.

Whoops.

Eep...

Poor guy.

Eeeeeek!!

TREMBLE

Uh, yeah. Heh heh...

Kazama-san, isn't this movie good?

WHISPER

SQUEEZE

I'm trying to distract you.

Akimo?

Uh, okay...

It's only one more hour.

Okay.

It's Finally over...

That was good. ♡

PALE

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

Why... why would I hold his...?

Really? Lovey dovey? Ooh ♡

By the way, were you guys holding hands during the movie?

Some PDA here, huh?

!

So I was holding Akino's hand.

PAT

I was too scared during the movie.

Uh... yeah, he is, but...

Shoot.

GASP

He's your boyfriend, right? Isn't he?

Kazama-san.

Ha ha ha I can't believe...

...you saw us.

ZIP

Looks like I convinced them.

Yeah.

You're scared of horror movies? How cute.

Ha ha ha

I see

Yeah, that's right!

It's embarrassing that I was scared because I'm a guy. So Akino was trying to hide it. She did it for me.

. . . . . .

Then let's do something that's not scary.

TOILET

The frame is vertical so the people in it need to get really close.

Yeah, it's narrow.

For couples?

BIBIRAKU

Oh! That's the neoprint that's for couples.

But... you need to get really close.

I knew it!

You guys should take one.

I know!

I don't have a good feeling about this...

I guess we have to.

Yeah...

URGH...

BIBIRAKU

You guys are a couple.

That's why it's for couples.

WHISPER

WHISPER

Don't touch some-place weird.

I know.

Yeah.

You guys won't fit.

Yeah! That'll fit!

Akino, put your arms around him.

SQUEEZE

Okay, you guys need to get closer.

Your faces are red, too...

Are you guys tired?

Why?

TWITCH

Hah SIGH

Yay, they fit!

Okay, okay.

You're right.

It's cute. ♡

.....

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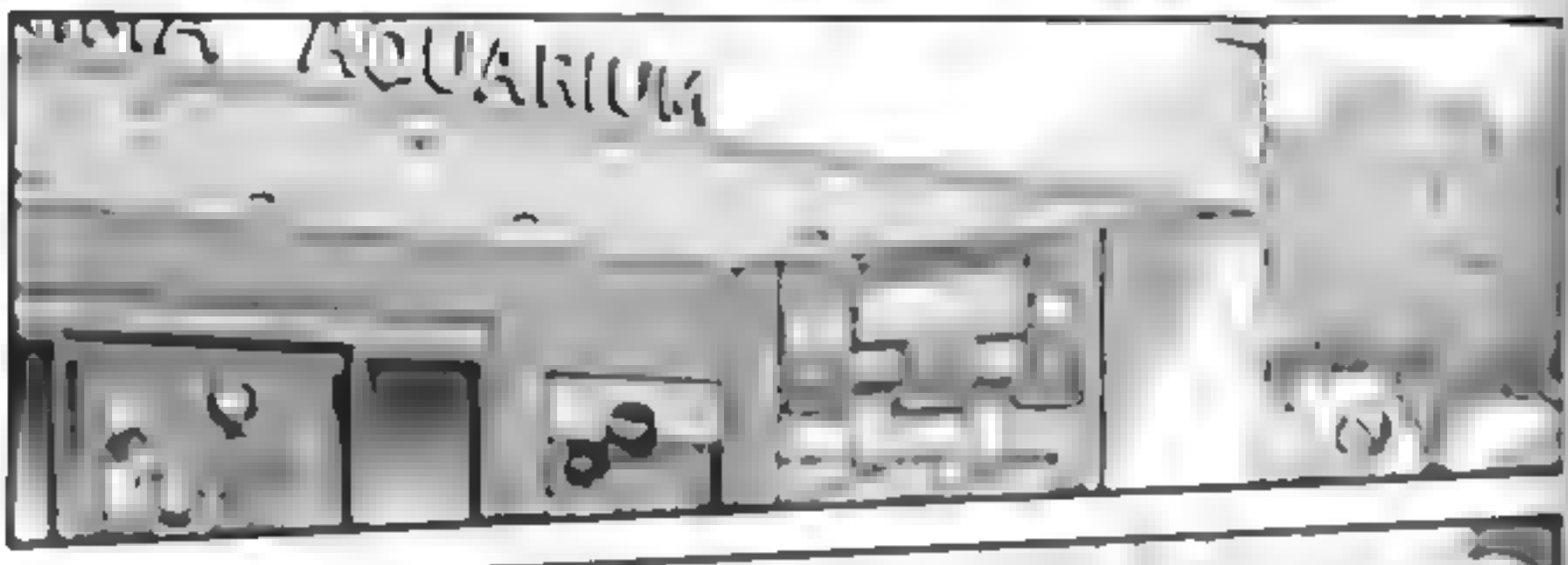
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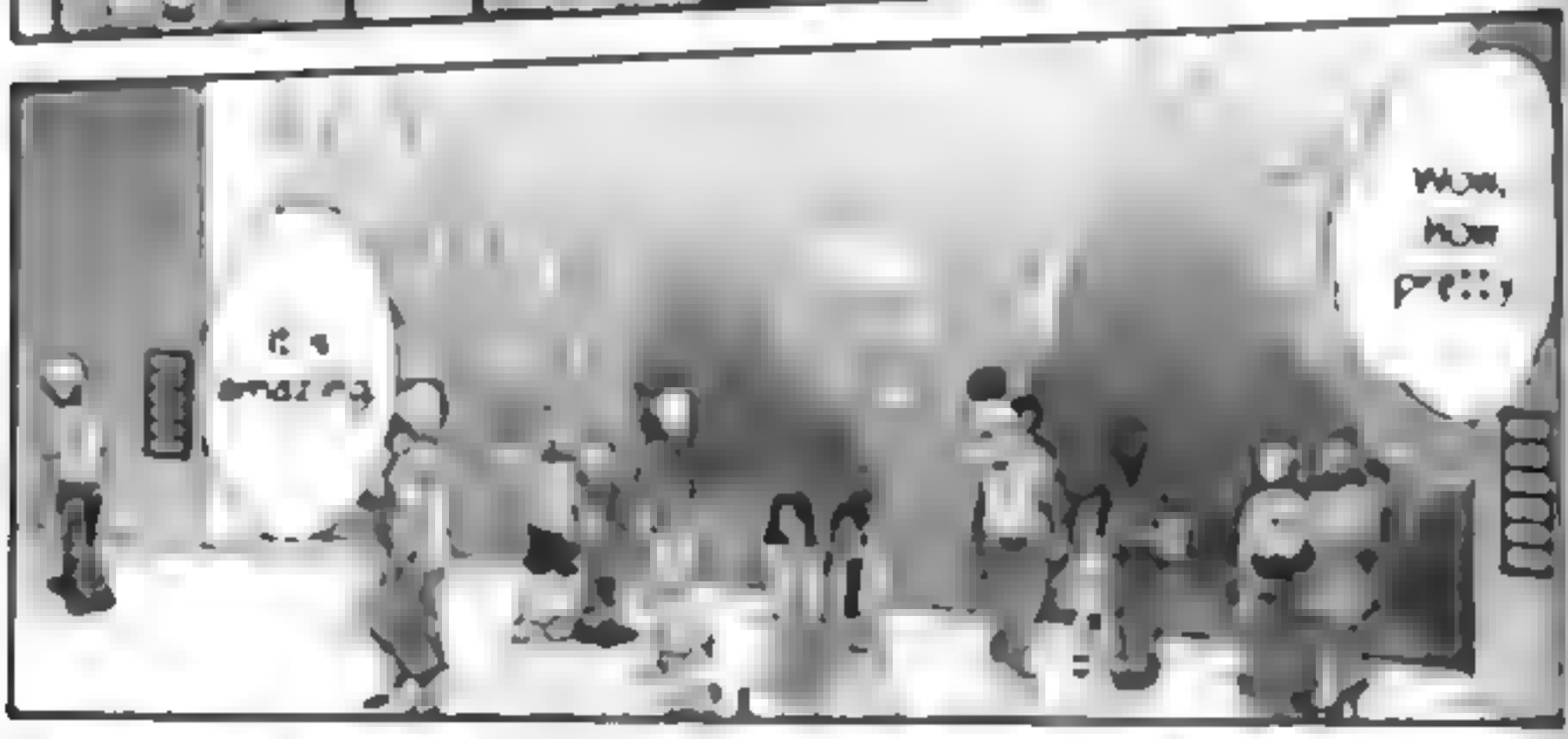

It's amazing
Wow, how pretty

We should just go see a show and distract them
I think it's still fine
I think they know already

SPLAAAASH

A show?

WHOA

KYU KYU

Dolphins are popular with girls.

I see.

Didn't know that.

That's pretty amazing.

Right?

Both of them are into it.

How cute. Wow

I wonder if Hime would like it if I brought her here.

You're in the middle of a date. That's rude to a girl.

Oh, sorry.

Why are you spacing out?

Hey, Kagetora.

I need to make it up to her...

I had to skip practice today without giving a reason...

DAZED

TH'

. . . . . .

Huh...

You saved me.

コソ

WHISPER

Thanks for covering for me earlier.

Dressed like that.

You actually look good.

GIGGLE

Oh, so this is what Kiritani looks like when she smiles.

I've never seen it.

.....

Oh.

They are lovey dovey.

It's a hidden talent. Stylist?

I should thank Ikoma.

I had noticed it, too.

That awkwardness was just my imagination.

Oh... no, it's nothing. I'm not used to getting compliments from you.

Is there something on my face?

Okay, coming up is a big jump.

There will be splashing.

Okay!

And juuuuuuump!

WOOOOOOSH

SPLASH!

Whoa...

!

Are you okay?

How about Akino?

Wow, I'm drenched.

It's cold!

Ah!

SPLASH

Did you get wet? Akino?

I didn't think it would splash this much.

Oh. I'm... ...Fine...

TH THUMP

I should stop that.

Slow-mo

SWISH

Here comes another jump!

Er...

SPLARASH

Are you guys wet yet?

He's a good boy-friend. How nice.

Wow, he protected her!

WHRRRRCK!

I don't think so!!

Boy-friend..?

Lovey dovey?

Oops.

I did it...

I lost them...

They might've gone home already...

Sigh...

ROLL

I DON'T

...it's my business...

...who Kagetora goes out with.

It's not like...

.....

Stupid Kagetora...

.....

What's wrong?

TUG TUG

KYE KYE...

TWITCH

!!

So...

...you see...

Kagetora and Aki-chan...

And other people.

Oh.

KYE KYE

Over there

Then we'll prove it!

Isn't there something we can do?

Hmm.

I guess that last one was bad...

And you hit him real hard.

It doesn't feel like you guys are together.

You guys are a little awkward.

Then why don't you guys kiss?

That'll prove it!

Something to prove it?

Oh.

Like that neoprint...

KISS!?

Uh...

Ki...

Hey, Kiri... Akino!?

WHAT!?

Fine. And then you guys will believe me, right?

Kiss, huh?

That's asking too much...!!

It's not that...

But...

You don't want to kiss me?

.....

But...

WHISPER

WHISPER

Just think of it as CPR.

I can't back down now.

WHISPER

!!

Then, please!

TH-THUMP

...they really going to do it?

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

Are...

KYE

TH-THUMP

Kagetora...

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

!?

Kosuke! What should I do?

!!

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

...Uh...

WHACK

Gah

I accidentally let go...

Sorry, Kosuke...

Whoops!

This monkey is Kagetora's...

A monkey?

Why is there a flying monkey?

Kosuke!?

Why?

STING STING

WEAK

Megumi! Mari!

Can you let us go this time?

Ha ha ha!

I guess we lost our moment.

Ha...

Setting the mood is important.

It'll be cheesy if we start over... right?

Then let's go get a drink.

Sorry, Kazama-san.

Can you guys go ahead?

Okay.

Kagetora.

They really were like lovers.

Yeah.

True.

It did look okay.

Right, Mari?

Thanks for today.

I had... fun.

Me, too. It was hectic, but I had fun too.

Although the movie was scary.

What if I was serious?

But I didn't think we would have to fake kissing, too.

HA HA HA

I'm only kidding.

See ya.

Idiot.

Huh!?

スタスタ TURN

Kiritani doesn't look like the type to kid.

Kidding...

I saw many sides of her today that I didn't know about.

TMP スタ

TMP スタ

Oh.

It was only pretend.

I should head home now.

Well, thank goodness Kosuke came flying.

Pretending to be a boyfriend isn't easy!

It scared me for a second...

Geez

Stupid Kagetora...

Kidding, huh?

A girl wouldn't kiss as a joke.

He's such an idiot ninja.

He did look good today.

I can't help it if I got a little serious.

That'll be my excuse.

RUFFLE RUFFLE

KNOCKED OUT

KYE

I don't get it

But why did Kosuke come flying anyway?

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

#27 How to Spend a Hot Summer Day

Maybe it's too revealing for me...

Hmm...

MIIIIN

MIIIIN

.....

Better to have bought it than regret not buying it.

Yup.

But it was my favorite...

But it might've been an impulse buy.

I wonder...

...if he'll say it looks good on me...

Is it broken?

SILENCE

Huh?

The air conditioner stopped.

CLICK

SHOOM

MIN MIN

JEEEK JEEEK

SHINE

What is it with this extreme heat?

Abnormal weather?

ぱふ ぱふ

FAN FAN

It's...

...hot.

Even ninjas get hot.

Besides...

Stop being a slacker, Kagetora! You're a senior ninja.

KYE KYE!

"Clear your mind and you will find even fire cool."

The air conditioner?

KYE KYE!

You should turn on the air conditioner.

But it's hot

Nice try.

Look who's talking! The monkey with a popsicle.

KYE!

I can't turn it on.

But it doesn't seem to be broken.

It seems there's no power.

Coming back from the store

I wonder if Hime's okay.

I guess that means the main house is down, too.

Totaled!

Wow, the pole is bent!

My new car...

That must be the reason. Then we'll probably have no power for a while...

A car crashed into the pole at the corner

KYE

MIIIN
MIIIN
JEEEK
JEEK
SLUMP
It's hot !!!!!!!!
I hate this!
HUFF
HUFF
Oh! I know!
Maybe I should go to the pool.
But with the blackout, I'll get sweaty again anyway...
Ick. I'm all sweaty.
Should I go shower?

Hime.

TMP

TMP

Kagetora!

MIIIIN

MIIIIN

?

Come with me!!

This way.

This way.

I thought of some-thing.

SPLASH

MIIIIN

MIIIIN

It feels so goooooood. ♡

Mmmmm! It's cold!

A bath. That's a good idea.

I see.

Come on, Kagetora!

If you get in with your bathing suit, it's just like a pool. ♪

Right? Hee hee

It's hard to just jump in...

...

...it's the women's bath...

Hmm.

But it's not a pool...

SPLASH

!?

Hey!

But... Hime...

If you stay there, you're going to get hotter.

TUG

TUG

!?

TUG

SLIP

GIGGLE

GIGGLE

Hurry up!

DRIP

DRIP

SPLASH

Kya!

Whoa...

It feels good, right?

See?

SMILE

Okay, Hime, there you go.

FLOAT

Okay!

Hee hee hee

And let's play with this! It's just like playing at the pool!

Oh! You're really prepared!

SPLASH ざば

SPLASH ざば

A beach ball?

I brought it.

Heh

Right.

Whoops...

TRD

POOF

PRESS

It's so hot, it feels like my self-control is melting.

I'm okay.

Ha ha.

Sorry, Kagetora.

I bumped into you.

!

TH-THUMP

Here it goes! Yah!

It's been awhile since...

...we've played just the two of us.

Kagetora

Yes.

I have to thank the blackout...

This is fun.

Don't you think?

Hee hee.

FLOAT

FLOAT

Oh. OH.

Tripped

Phew, I'm tired.

I'm so thirsty!

But you're not tired at all, are you?

You don't look it.

Well, I am a ninja after all.

What?

It is!

Playing with the beach ball is pretty good exercise.

That's sort of not fair.

We're exercising the same amount.

Hmm

But that can't be helped. We're starting with different amounts of stamina.

Heh Ya,

And if I had less stamina than you, how would I be able to teach you?

Ha ha

Yeah, I know, but I want to win sometimes!

STOMP

STOMP

C-RANK

F

K-UNK

Kosuke

Oh!

Orange juice?

Yay! I was thirsty.

KYE

Thank you. ♡

GULP

GULP

It tastes a little different...
Kosuke... is this really orange juice?
It should be.
FLIP
Huh?
SIP...
You're pretty useful for a change.
I'll have some too.
I'm always useful.
XOX.

Cocktail
7% Fruit Juice, 4% Alcohol
Let's see...

Shoot!
GASP
It's not about me! It's about...
KYE!?
GRAB!

Are you okay!?
Hime!

EEEEK
Alcohol!!
But you're okay, right?
Oh? Is it?
KYEP

What's wrong?

What?

SMILE

ニコニコ

Huh?

SPLASH

ちゃぷ

I guess if it's this weak, it doesn't affect her.

PHEW

Oh, um...

I guess... you're okay.

My hand?

SWISH

ふり

...Give me your hand.

What is it?

SPLASH

ぱしゃ

Can you come over here?

Hey, Kagetora.

SQUEEZE

SMILE

Kagetora...

Hime?

TH-
THUMP

!?

Yaaaah!!

SPLAAASH!

Hime!? What...

SPLASH

SPLASH

Whoa!

Toudou-style Aiki Jujitsu...

Hic.

She's drunk!!

Oh no.

...I should return the favor today.

You always teach me, so...

Hic

Um, I...

You're leaving?

We should get out now.

I think we should practice another time.

SPLASH

Don't go...

SQUEEZE

!

But... but...

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

SQUEEZE

I told you, we're going to practice.

HIC

OW OW OW OW!!

TWIST

Yah!!

I need to snap her out of it.

That's right... Hime is stronger when she's drunk..

I don't know why.

Don't give her any more, stupid Kosuke!

One more round

Kosuke, more orange juice.

KYE!

WHIP

Reflex

I'm thirsty...

Hic

Then I need to stop her myself!!

GLARE

Oh, I forgot.

Thankfully she doesn't have any weapons.

Last time it was a naginata.

Okay, Kagetora.

This time I'm serious.

HIC

SWISH

Enough talking!

DASH

Stop doing that, Kosuke!!

WHIP

Kosuke, get me the wooden sword.

KYE

Stupid!

SWOOSH

Her moves are slick.

Even if it's only when she's drunk.

SWING

Whoa...

Hime, excuse me!

SWISH

But she might get hurt.

I need to stop her!

SOFT

Soft?

TURN

Over?

Practice is over.

Hime.

SWISH

I'm so sorry, Hime...

Eep...

Oh.

DIZZY

No!!

I'm going to excuse myself.

Hime..

WOBBLE...

キョトCONFUSED

Kagetora?

Blood rushed to my head...

You...

...didn't see every-thing yet...

You can't go yet...

Huh...?

No...?

?

What are you...

!?

TH-THUMP

UNTIE

ミシ

.....

What are you doing?

What...

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

SPLASH

SPLASH

FLAP

UNTIE

SPLASH

Hime!?

DAZED

Hey, Kagetora.

Kagetora?

I...

...just bought it.

What do you think?

Are you listening?

Oh.

Um...

GASP

You surprised me.

You were wearing it under-neath.

Ha ha ha.

HMPH

Huh...?

That's not what I asked.

POUT

Leave me alone!

Hime!?

Oh.

Or what I did earlier!?

It's not that...

Um... are you mad that we stopped?

What do you think?

Oh!

Or is it...

Um...

You...

Look very good in that bathing suit!!

RUFFLE

RUFFLE

Um... Hime...

Uh... I... um...

...admiring how you look.

Really. Um, I was...

.....

Really?

BLUSH

So... um...

MUMBLE MUMBLE

I wanted you to think I look good.

Hee hee hee

HAPPY

Yay!

HAPPY

KYE KYE

TMP TMP

Kosuke.

Then I'll go change before it gets dirty.

TMP TMP

She's very cute!

TH-THUMP

!

I guess not.

TMP

TMP

THUD

Oh, right... Well, she was running so I think she's okay.

Is she sobered up now?

Are you okay!?

SLIDE

Hime!!

Excuse me!

zzzzz

Oh.

Fast asleep...

KYE...

CHIME

Um...

Kagetora...

Oh.

You're awake?

Do you not remember anything?

Um, I drank the orange juice and then...

That was actually alcohol.

Um...

Sort of...

It would help me if she doesn't remember that I touched her chest.

Hime!

You...

...look very good in that bathing suit!

BLUSH

Ah!

No, it's nothing!

SHAKE

SHAKE

Hime? What is it?

WAKE UP

TH THUMP

Your face is still red.

Are you still not feeling well?

STARE

Yeah...

Maybe.

THUMP

Hime...?

That's why...

...I'll stay like this.

As you wish, Hime...

Can I?

CH.ME

Kagetora.

Let's play again, okay?

Sure.

Yuki!

Please come here for a moment.

KAGETORA

Grandma?

What did she say?

Your grandmother wrote us.

See here.

What is it?

PEEK

"I'm going to spend the summer at our summer home in Kamakura."

"Yuki should spend a few days with me."

I can't. I'm too busy with work.

Are you going, Mom?

Grandma's stricter than Mom...

URGH

It looks like she only wants you anyway...

She probably wants to train you.

FLAP

!

She uses the house from time to time.

Go get some training.

You haven't gone in a while.

Kamakura...

Hmm

I guess so.

Really!?

Yay

Kagetora?

I need to train with him, too.

Right?

Can I take Kagetora, too?

I can go play with Kagetora.

Hee hee

YAY わくわく

There's a beach near the house.

YAY わくわく

There are fireworks at night, too.

How fun. ♡

Oh!

She's so trans-parent.

You can tell what she's thinking.

MIIIN MIIIN

I should see if Kagetora can go.

...if Kagetora's there, it'll be fun. ♪

Grandma's training is hard, but...

#28 Rainy Kamakura

KAGETORA カゲトラ

Yes...

Is this your first time in Kamakura?

I see...

We're here!

It is a nice place... well suited for the Toudou family.

Sure.

Once I finish training, let's go!

The beach is just out back.

SMILE

You're a little early.

Grandma!

SWISH

Huh?

Welcome, Yuki.

She is very guarded...

I didn't notice her coming.

This is the former master.

ZSH..

Are you the "oyakume" ninja?

GRSP

So.

You are...

Yes!

I am Kagetora from Hoorai.

It is nice to meet you.

Hmm

ZISH/

Does she know me?

Huh?

Let's go, Kagetora!

Okay.

TURN

Yuki.

Hurry and come in.

You stay in the yard until I tell you otherwise.

Huh? Why?

Kagetora.

Yes, ma'am.

Understood, Kagetora?

Yes.

Kagetora, I'll see you later, okay?

Hey... Grandma?

Hurry.

Did I offend her or some-thing?

Wait in the yard...?

I don't get it...

.....

Really, Yuki...

You're bad at recovering and transitioning to the next move.

Ouch!

PRNG'

Hah!!

...making me train as soon as I arrive.

And you're strict...

Ow...

STING

STING

We'll end here.

Okay then.

You can do what you want now.

No!

SHAKE

SHAKE

Something you want to say?

No.

MATTER-OF-FACT

Really!?

Then I'm going to go to the beach with Kagetora!

Kagetora.

Are you there?

What!? Why?

But I have to guard Hime...

Guard the house!?

You stay here and guard the house.

I am going to the beach with Yuki.

Did you call me?

TAP

Yes!

Can't you follow my orders?

You look dissat-isfied.

Then hurry and go.

TURN

Of course I can...

What!?

I'll have someone else protect Hime.

...ma'am...

Yes...

Why do you look so glum?

Just hurry!

That's not what I want!

• • • • •

What!?

DRAG

DRAG

DRAG

Okay, Yuki. Get ready.

You want to go to the beach, right?

Ninjas only leave the village for one reason.

I'm on duty.

Why...?

Why are you here?

Yo ♪

Long time, no see.

WAVE

WAVE

Kura!

There are others here, too.

It's my job to protect the previous Toudou master and this house.

If she had some ADT stuff, it'd be easy.

ADT?

She hates that high-tech stuff.

This house has no security system.

You're so lucky. Being the guardian for a cute Hime like that.

I wanted that duty, too.

Plus I got to see the Toudou Hime-sama.

I saw her for the first time.

And any duty from the Toudou family is good!

DAT DAT

ばし ばし

Oh well. At least you're here.

Heh

...so glum now?

zu!

So why is the guardian of the Toudou Hime...

...wants that "oyakume."

I was going for it, too.

Yep, yep.

I mean, anyone born in the Hoorai village...

But I was ordered to protect the house.

Well... I came here with Hime...

Ninjas always accept orders.

We can't live without them... right?

What's the big deal?

So?

?

Isn't that normal? We're ninjas.

I'm Hime's guardian.

But I've been ordered to do other stuff...

So you understand. Then there's no problem.

That's true, but...

Besides... they're from a person in the Toudou family.

Not like there's much to do.

Ha ha

We'll guard the house together.

...

SPLAAAASH

Yuki?

Or not?

Did you go swimming?

Although there's no one else here because it's a private beach

It's very summer-like.

Coming to the beach is nice once in a while.

Everyday would be bor'ng.

. . . . . .

POUT

ぷく－－っ

wanted him to come with me...

You made Kagetora stay at home.

Why are you pouting?

Cuz...

He is a ninja.

I wanted to play with him...

URGH

Yuki.

Why do ninjas have to stay home?

You don't understand.

I know.

.....?

Yuki... since when did you become so dense?

What!?

Listen carefully.

SHOCK

Did you hit your head during training?

...and you are Yuki *Toudou.*

Kagetora is a *ninja from the Hoorai village.*

Why don't you go swim and cool off?

Fine.

Sigh

!

URGGGH

I still don't get it.

SPLASH
ざぶ
SPLASH
ざぶ
I'm definitely coming with Kagetora tomorrow!!
Geez
Fine!
STOMP
ズカ
ズカ
STOMP
She's so mean!
Will she be okay?
Yes.
If Yuki doesn't understand...
...I'll make Kagetora understand.
Please go get her.
POOF
Yes, ma'am.
She can't swim?
Hime-sama... is she drowning?
Oh.
No, I mean...
What?

...so trouble-some...

She is...

Oh!

Kagetora!!

I found you!

Hime.

Did you need me?

That's true.

I shall go with you tomorrow then.

...I wanted you to come with me tomorrow.

Yeah. Since you couldn't come with me today...

Really? Promise?

I'll go first. Meet me there, okay?

Then I'll see you tomorrow.

TMD

TMD

Sure.

Kagetora? Are you there?

!

TH-THUMP

In order to keep my promise... I have to do it...

.....

SLIDE

Excuse me.

I give you permis-sion...

SWISH

...to come in.

Did you want to talk to me?

I see that you weren't hiding your presence.

Why do you keep giving me non-"oyakume" orders?

Please excuse my disrespect, but I would like to ask you a question.

But it's not, is it?

If it is only a master-servant relationship, then it's fine.

But you are getting too close.

You are doing well.

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

...eep...

I'm going to make this clear.

If you want to continue this "oyakume..."

...you must know your place as a ninja!

...hat is ...ny.

THUMP

...er...

SLAM

SQUEEZE

My place...

...as a ninja...

Hime.

You're still here?

FLINCH

Kagetora

Oh, if you're going to swim...

Hime...

No...

...I am done...

Did you need something from Grandma?

That's Grandma's room.

Oh.

ZWISH

Huh?

I have my duty to guard the house. I must excuse myself...

Kagetora...?

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SPLASH

Kagetora never breaks a promise.

But he promised.

ZISH

Kagetora!?

It's gloomy.

ZISH

ZISH

He's late...

I thought you were Kagetora.

What does that mean?

We were supposed to meet here.

It's you...

Oh.

He's usually never late.

But...I don't know where he is.

Did you... say something to him?

Yes. Last night.

But I only said what needed to be said.

Well.

He wasn't a fool after all.

He understands his place.

What...?

DASH

Yuki!

No...

I am done...

Last night...

!

DRIP

WHOOSH

SPLASH

WHOOSH

WHOOOOOOSH

Rain...

DROP

DROP

Why...
...did he look so sad?
WHOOOOSH
Why didn't he come?
SPLASH
SPLASH
TURN
Kagetora!!
!

I...

...broke my promise.

Hime...

TURN

I am sorry...

GRAB

Wait!!

Argh!

TUG

BING!

Cough

Hime...

Please let go...

No!

I won't!

If I do... you're going to leave.

What did Grandma say to you?

FLAP

!

Then...

SWIRL

Then...

...why are you avoiding me?

Then...

Nothing

Not much.

I am only a ninja. My rank is too low for a Hime like you to...

That's stupid!!

You're you!

Ninjas always accept orders.

I...

...I am a ninja...

...before I am Kagetora.

And a master's order...is absolute.

Because I'm a Toudou...?

GRIP

Why...

...do you say such things?

BOOF!

!?

...and you are Yuki Toudou.

Kagetora is a ninja...

GRAB

Why...

...how a ninja feels...
You wouldn't understand...

WHOOSH...

"Hime" wouldn't...

Know your place!

That's how ninjas are treated.

...understand!

But you won't say anything...

SWIRL

If you don't...

...of course I won't understand!

Hime!

DASH!

Hime... she was crying...

CLENCH

BAM!...

Dang!

SPLASH

SPLASH

What am I doing...?

What should I do...?

It's getting stormy...

POUR...

I don't get it...

Stupid Kagetora...

POUR.

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

#29 Kamakura After the Rain

SPLASH

SPLASH

POUR

SLIDE

Kagetora.

You're all wet.

DRIP

DRIP

Kurai...

I guess it's easing up.

The ra'n.

Hmm...

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

What hap-pened?

Okay.

I think she came back thirty minutes ago.

Huh?

Did Hime come back?

You can't just snub your old friend like this.

GRAB!

HIC!

Hey.

...

Nothing.

TURN AJ!

You... wanted to be the "oya-kume" ninja, right?

Yeah?

...Kurai.

You protect Hime instead of me...

LET GO

Yeah. So?

You can do it...

Really...

GRIP

If the head of our village and the Toudou master approve it...

Yeah.

You're going to give me your "oyakume" duty?

SWISH

Really?

WHACK

What...

!?

But I...

Don't say things you don't mean!!

You idiot!!

KICK!

Go cool off!!

ぴしゃ

SLAM

Kurai...

What is he thinking?

That idiot.

THUNK

She probably said something to him.

Heh.

Kurai hit me with all his might...

Ow...

STING

But what should I do...?

True... it's not what I want.

Don't say things you don't mean!!

I told you to cool off.

Kurai.

Are you still freak-ing out about it?

Kagetora!

DULL

We've known each other since we were kids.

I know how much you wanted to earn the "oyakume" duty.

I know how much you trained.

That's why when you got the assign-ment...

...I felt it was the best decision.

Geez...

SLAP

So you're proving me wrong, too?

Kurai...

Go back to the village!

But if you really don't want to do it, then fine.

I...

No!

Isn't there something else you should be doing?

...uh...

So what are you doing here?

TURN

Want to stay the "oyakume" ninja, right?

I knew it.

Such a kid.

Geez.

HH!!

'ZWISH'

Sheesh.

RUSTLE

SPLASH..

SPLASH

I wonder how I can under-stand...

You wouldn't...

...under-stand...

Kagetora's...

...feel-ings...

I don't know...

TEAR...

SPLASH

TH-THUMP

SLIDE

Excuse me.

SCRUB

SCRUB

...your back.

SWISH!

I'll wash...

Soap

Towel

Huh?

GLANCE

WORKING IN SILENCE

Yes?

Really.

SHAKE

SHAKE

No, it's nothing.

Um.

Kunoichi-san...

Um...

Then, Setsu-san...

I want you to tell me something.

Yes?

Kunoichi-san...

You can call me Setsu, Hime-sama.

How can I under-stand...

...a ninja's feelings?

There is no need.

Ninjas do not need feelings.

...Hime-sama.

We are not human. We are ninja.

We accept our orders and act upon them.... We are tools.

If tools had feelings, they would be hard to use.

Huh!? But...

I am a ninja before I am Kagetora.

Ninjas always accept orders.

And a master's order is... absolute.

Kagetora said the same thing...

But he looked upset.

He would endure this and still work for the Toudou family?

Because my master is Sagiri-sama.

It's pretty easy.

BLUNT-

It is not difficult for me.

Yes.

Because Sagiri-sama is strong.

She has no doubt in her orders.

It's easier...

...if you serve Grandma?

If the master is strong and has no doubts...

...the ninja serving can be stronger.

If... ninjas feel anything...

...it is hope. That we serve a strong master.

A strong... master...

Setsu-san...

Hime-sama.

Please be strong.

You are our... the Hoorai ninja's master.

SPLAAAASH

Whoa.

Excuse me.

I forgot to rinse.

Hime-sama...

TURN

Oh, Setsu-san.

I think I said too much.

Excuse me.

Kagetora's foremost master is you, Hime-sama.

Just like Sagiri-sama is my foremost master...

Thank you!

Master-to-be.

Good luck.

Yes!

Now...

I thought this was part of my job.

I can't help them the way you did.

You were listening?

How unlike you to get into other people's business.

KLUNK..

SWISH

SWISH

...it's up to both of them.

SIP...

Yuki, please try to be quieter.

What is it?

SLIDE

URGH

Grandma!

I did.

Then...

...that Kagetora is a *ninja from the Hoorai village*...

...and I am Yuki *Toudou*.

Grandma, you said...

Kagetora is *my* ninja!!

I'm going to decide what to do with Kagetora.

Yuki...

I'm going to go watch the fireworks!

DASH

Anyway... that's all I wanted to say.

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

Um...

I'm surprised.

• • • • • •

Come in.

Another guest?

KNOCK

KNOCK

ﾄﾝﾄﾝ

ﾄﾝﾄﾝ

Kagetora?

Excuse me.

Do you remember what you told me yesterday?

What, a dismissal?

Yes.

I have a request regarding that.

I told you to know your place if you want to continue your duty.

Of course.

Yes.

Sagiri-dono.

If you are unhappy with me...

...please go ahead and prepare another ninja...

Hmph. How commendable.

To listen to what I say.

GLARE

However!

!?

Okay, I understand.

You may go now.

I will give my life.
As long as I am alive...
.....
...I am Hime's ninja!!

I will... fight that ninja with my life.
If it's for Hime...

...still hanging around here?

Why is *Yuki's* "oyakume" ninja...

And?

I see. That's how he responds...

Hurry and go guard her!!

Yuki went to the beach to watch the fireworks.

Huh?

Excuse me.

SWOOSH

Yes, ma'am!!

Heh...

. . . . . .

I'm going to decide what to do with Kagetora!

Ha ha! I can't believe a ninja stood up to me.

GIGGLE GIGGLE

TAP

It's the first time.

And... for Yuki to talk back to me.

I didn't think she had that much fire in her.

GRIN

Do you think this is Kagetora's influence?

Tenshuu.

I wonder...

Your son is interesting.

...that my foolish son caused you trouble.

I'm sorry...

Now, don't say that.

I should take him back to the village and retrain him from the beginning.

They say lions throw their cubs down a cliff, but you are relentless.

Foolish son?

What ninjas are.

As a Toudou, she will need to use ninjas in the future.

I wanted her to understand.

This was a good opportunity to make Yuki realize her place.

Tenshuu.

But he did pretty—

GIGGLE

And I also wanted to see Kagetora and his abilities as "oyakume" ninja.

Yes.

Watching them made me remember a certain man.

Well...since we're discussing such an important companion...

...I should drink in his honor.

You'll join me, right?

Nothing that Kagetora can dare compare to.

But he was one of the best in the village.

I don't mind, but...

You think?

You are so mean to your own blood...

Let's see

I wonder if those two are related yet

Of course

I will go prepare it

But what am I supposed to say?

I need to

Hime!

Or "sorry I can't understand how you feel"?

"Sorry I made things difficult"?

I don't know what to say!!

ARGH!

I can't say anything intelligent

Hime.

Kagetora.

Hime!

Um... Kagetora.

I need to apologize to you.

I need to apologize!

Huh!?

But that's because I...

I...

FWSSH

No, it's my fault.

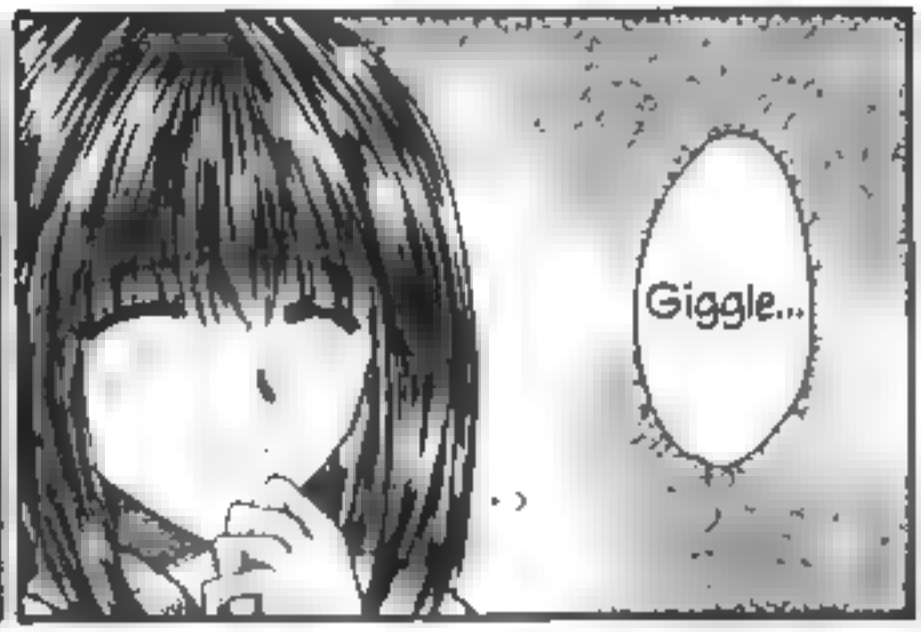
I was too weak and hurt you.

No, Kagetora, it was me...

KA-BOOM
.....
.....

Oh...
Freworks...

Ha ha...


Giggle...

Oh!
Kagetora, this way!
SPLASH

Giggle
It's pretty.
It is.

Hii!

Hime!

Hii!

DASH

The Fireworks are closer.

See?

Hime! It's dangerous.

I'm Fine!

SPLASH

Uh Oh

SWIRL

I should just take it off.

My yukata is soaked.

?

DRENCHED

Hee hee

Oops...

ZAAAAA

I told you it was danger-ous...

.....

TH-THUMP

Uh, no, it's nothing!

Surprised me.

Kagetora?

What's wrong?

?

I wore my suit underneath so I could swim.

After the fireworks.

Huh?

But I'm glad...

I wanted...

...to watch the fireworks with you.

That's why I'm happy.

Hime!

SQUEEZE

Oh, look!

BOOM

That one's big...

Can I, once more...

...be by your side to protect you?

Yes!

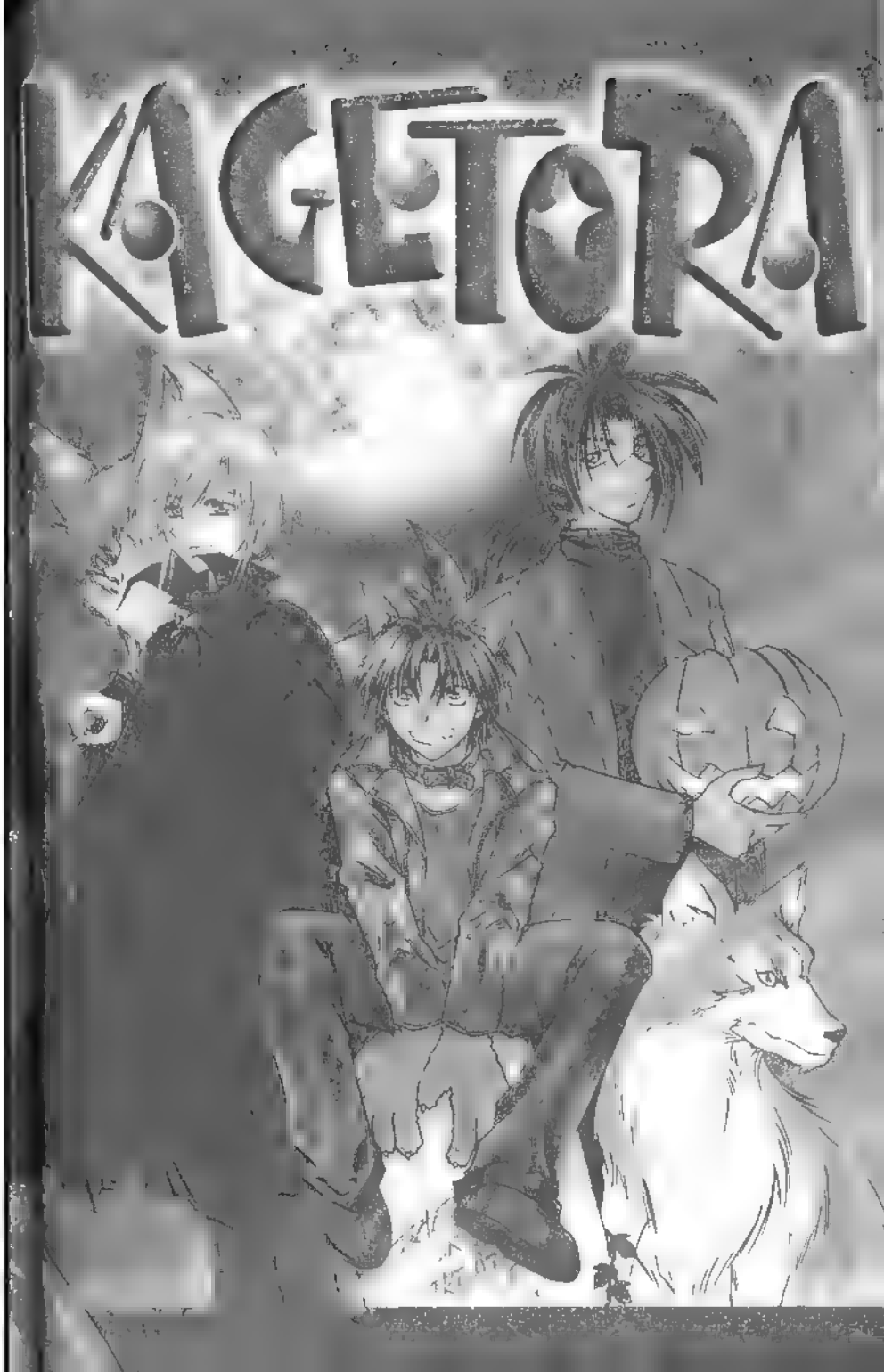
Can you go out with me?

Kazama-kun!

Huh?

KAGETORA

#30 Prelude to a Love Triangle


KAGETORA

KAGETORA

Oh!

Boy-friend?

...become your boy-friend?

Go out... as in...

...can you come with me?

WAVE

No, I meant...

...I mean...

WAVE

I'm Nao Takatou from 3-A.

I wanted to ask Kazama-kun a favor.

Yeah, like that!

Go with you?

A favor?

SMILE

We're having a friendly match against Minami High next week, but one of our players can't make it.

He got injured.

ARCHERY CLUB

We're a small club.

So if one person is missing we can't participate.

Oh, so you want Kagetora to...

Yes!

GRAB

Kazama-kun!

Please!

Can you take his place?

Archery...

But I think you can do it because you're a ninja.

Archery is hard for just anyone.

It's an important traditional match...

Can...

...you?

It looks really used...

Yeah.

Takatou... is this yours?

Okay!

I'll do it.

It is very important to her.

But she takes care of it...

Hm...

I use it every-day.

Ha ha ha It's pretty beat up, isn't it?

All right!

Really!?

Don't worry! I'll teach you all of that.

Oh

Shoot!

The bell!

BR-RING.

I was really in a bind!

Thank you ♡

SHAKE

SHAKE

But I don't know any of the rules.

So can you meet me here after school?

Okay.

Ha ha

She's so energetic.

I'll see you then!

I see.

3-E

ARCHERY CLUB

Yeah.

GIGGLE

DASH

They're starting practice today.

Was he asked by Takatou?

Well, Kagetora should be okay with anything martial arts-related.

He is a ninja.

Kagetora is helping out the Archery Club?

MUNCH MUNCH

Kendo Club vice captain

She's very easy to get along with.

I see her around at the captain's meeting and stuff.

Yeah... Aki-chan, do you know her?

Whoa

Pass it!

Oh, Takatou-san.

Oh... look.

Speak of the devil.

Wow...

She's amazing.

*Athletic person...

She's athletic.

Takatou.

Wow, she's playing basketball with guys.

She's fun to be around.

She gets along with both guys and girls.

Then there's her personality.

Kagetora.

You should go home without me today.

Hime.

BR RING

Have fun.

Okay.

Takatou will probably practice pretty late.

Sorry!

DASH

I think she told me to come here...

She's not here.

Huh?

But I did a longer run.

I was hoping to get back here before you.

I was jogging and ran late.

You don't have to rest?

Okay, let's go to the archery field!

I'm a trained athlete.

I'm fine.

GRIP

TMP

TMP

WOOSH!

Now you try it.

That was the basic stance.

She's got a strong stance after releasing.

Oh...

She is well trained.

WOOSH

Right on!

TWANG

I knew I could count on you.

Heh heh ♪

But you're still amazing.

Archery is about form too, right?

I need to get my form like yours.

I've used a bow before, but it was self-taught.

Wow! Have you done this before?

Right now I just copied you.

Uh... thanks...

It's a little embarrassing when she praises me so much...

Please excuse me.

SWISH

Hmm. You have the basics down.

I guess we should just practice until your body memorizes it.

Hey, we're closing.

Oh, okay. Thank you.

THUMP

Your face needs to be here.

TURN

Like that.

Then you can call me Nao.

Okay!

All my friends do.

SMILE

You can call me Kagetora.

I'm not used to people addressing me with "-kun."

It feels funny.

Then let's go, Kazama-kun.

ARCHERY C

Oh

Takatou!

I'll ask the owner if we can use it.

There are no other archery fields around here...

I wish they would let us practice a little later.

At school.

You know a place!?

Yes.

Hmm. Maybe we can use...

Hmmm...

Thank you, master.

I got back a minute ago.

SLIDE

Did you have to talk to Mom?

That's Mom's room...

You're back.

Huh?

There's not much time before the match.

You're going to practice here, too?

I wanted to ask Master if we could use the archery field here.

Starting tomorrow, Nao will come here, too.

Oh, yeah.

Hime, did you not know Takatou's name?

Oh, no, I know it.

TH-THUMP

Nao... you mean Takatou-san?

Huh...

So I can't train with you starting tomorrow. Master will do it instead.

Mom is strict...

And Master said that if I'm going to participate, I need to win.

A martial arts instructor from Toudou cannot lose, now can he?

Nao said that she doesn't get enough practice at school, so...

I... see

I'm causing you trouble.

I'm sorry.

What...?

Thank you.

ほ？ PHEW...

Okay.

DASH

I should go take a bath.

Talk to you later.

It's practice.

Oh, no, don't worry about it!

He'd rather practice archery...

...than train with me...

SAD...

TAP

TMP

CREAK

TMP...

The Next Day

Hello!

We can really practice here?

I got permission.

This is great!

Wow.

Then let's start!

THOK

Phew...

Huh?

Hey, that looks good!

SIP.

SPLASH

We should take a break!

I'm tired.

Okay. Good idea.

Phew

That was good!

I'll have some, too!

Nao, watch out...

KLUNK

Okay, back to practice!

TURN

TH-THUMP

DRINK

KER-KLUNK

SPLAAAASH

Then I'm going to take a bath.

Okay.

I'll continue practicing.

You can probably use the main house bath...

Can I use your shower?

I have a change of clothes.

Sorry...

I'm drenched!

DRIPPING WET

The bucket... I was too late.

Darn.

I need to get better to show I appreciate the time off.

PULL

I'm taking days off my duty to do this.

I should get serious.

THUNK

I'm just borrowing your bath.

I got wet.

Oh, okay.

Hi Toudou-san.

Oh?

Takatou... san.

Yeah, I'm borrowing your field *and* your bath.

Ha ha ha

Oh, that's why...

I flipped over a bucket.

And I got drenched.

SPLASH

I see.

Oh!

Oh

I finished my training.

How about you?

TH THUMP

ドキン・・・

Huh?

No, don't worry about it...

I'm sorry to take him away from you.

Kagetora is your instructor, huh?

STARE

じ

・・・・・・

Takatou-san?

What is it?

Nao is...

TH-THUMP

ドキン

ドキン

TH-THUMP

...just said "Kagetora."

Takatou-san...

TH-THUMP

ドキン

TH-THUMP

ドキン

But you're single, right? There are a lot of guys interested in you.

Didn't you know?

No, that can't be true!

They will be so jealous!

Ha ha ha.

I'm going to brag to the guys in classs that I took a bath with you.

Huh!?

SPLASH

You're so cute, I thought you'd have a boyfriend.

SHAKE

SHAKE

Really.

Nope!

Oh

Do you have someone you're going out with?

How about you?

...a boy-friend?

You don't have...

Phew. Hot.

I've...

...never had one.

Why not?

Hmmm. I don't have anyone right now.

There was one before, but I didn't say anything.

Oh.

Then...

...is there someone you like?

Um...

Because what if it didn't work out?

Then we'd be awkward.

So I wanted things to stay how they were.

That's why... I don't really understand that kind of stuff.

So this ends here!

CLAP

We've stayed too long.

I'm so hot

Geez. That conversation went in a weird direction.

How embarrassing.

Takatou-san...

I'll see you later!

Toudou-san.

Okay.

SLIDE

I think I'll go practice again.

STRETCH

I can't lose to Kagetora.

Yeah.

I don't hate her.

She's really nice.

Just like Aki-chan said.

She's easy to talk to.

SPLASH

.....

I don't get it...

But why do I get so sad...

...when I talk to her?

SLIDE

Kagetora...

Oh

He's still at it.

I can hear him.

THUNK

TWANG

9 14

THUNK

KLUNK...

OH

You were in the middle of it.

I didn't want to bother you...

...whoa...

TRIP

Oh, yeah.

Oh, you're back. You could've said something.

THUMP

Oh

The smell of sweat...

I'm glad you didn't fall.

TOT!

SWISH!

Sorry!

!!

Are you okay?

Uh.

Yeah...

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

BLUSH

Didn't she just take a bath?

?

Wash her face...

TMP TMP TMP

I'm going to go wash my face.

Sorry!

DASH

SPLASH

PHEW

It happens all the time.

Why did I get red like that?

Hmm?

I wonder if my face looks normal.

Sigh...

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

All the time...

TH-
THUMP

Huh!?

TH-
THUMP

Huh?

TH-
THUMP

Is this...

...because of Kagetora?

What is this?

TH-
THUMP

It won't stop...

TH-
THUMP

...

THUNK

THUNK

Kosuke...

...he's so serious...

KYE

PULL

Phew...

THUNK

...he's doing it for Takatou-san...?

Is it because...

KYE?

I can't stop blushing.

Shoot.

She's not coming back.

Where'd she go?

• • • •

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

To be continued in Volume Seven

Bonus Page

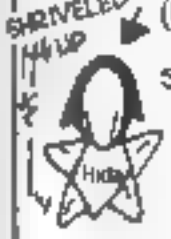
Hello. This is Segami. Wow, it's Volume Six. Six! The year goes by so fast lately. I guess it means that my life is full. So that's a good thing. This time there's bonus manga, so please enjoy it. ♪

About Ninjas - Part 6

There is something called a "ninbobo." It is a ninja version of the sarubobo (which I mentioned in Volume 2). I had one but I lost it. This is actually the second one I lost. I guess since they are ninja, they just disappear. But my friends and family say that they're sacrificed in place of something bad happening to me. It's not like it's a jizou or anything... but I can't dismiss the idea completely.

Like this.

Because the sarubobo I had a long time ago became like this.



(It wasn't shaped like a sarubobo anymore.)

Substitute?

About Traveling

I can't go anywhere! (cry) I do go to places for research, but I don't get to have fun at all. I would like to go on a trip where I can relax in a hot spring. I would like to go motorcycling, too. But I'm not allowed to...

Thanks!

Thank you for all the letters! I think I can reply by the time this volume is out! I think it gives me so much energy!! I will work hard so that I can write back!

禁句
Taboo

疾風迅雷
What It Takes

サクーリー 小助を探せ!!
Sakuya's Lament

↑ Perfect attendance

素直になれなくて
Going Home

↖ From #26

Tell him not to come dressed like that.
Hey. Can't you scold him normally?
Doesn't fit in with the village.
Oh, I don't want a stranger calling me brother...
Ha ha ha. It's funny.
Brother Taka!? What? What?

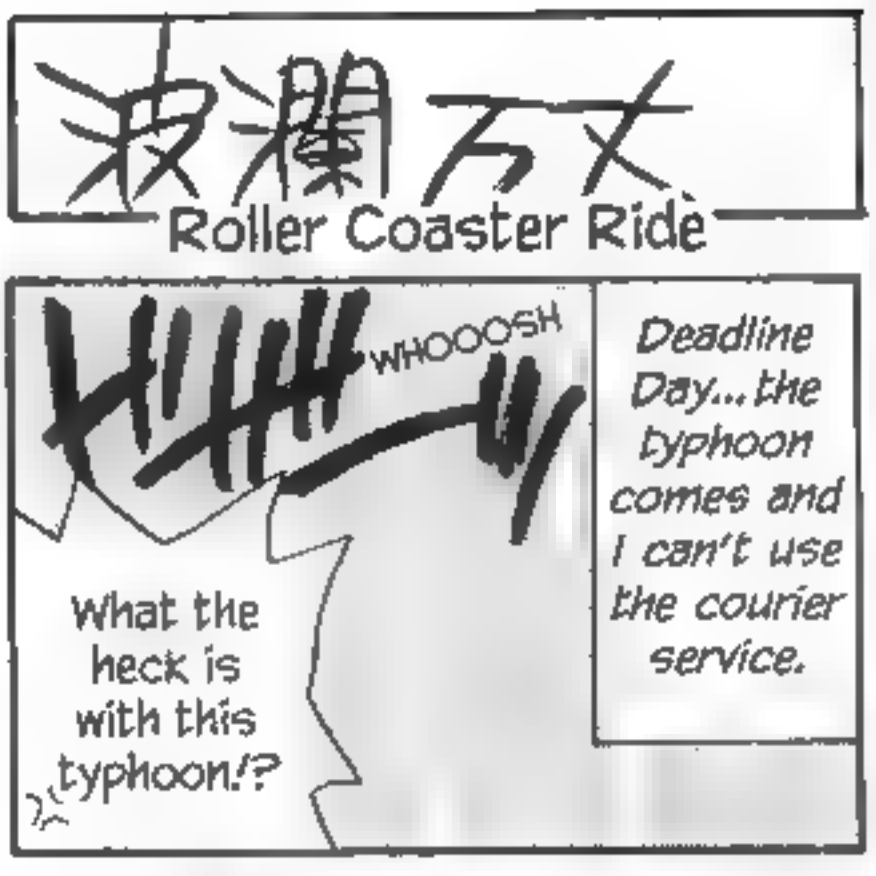
One-Panel Bonus

Of course the skaters were very good, too. By the way, if that Domo-kun falls, he can't get up on his own...

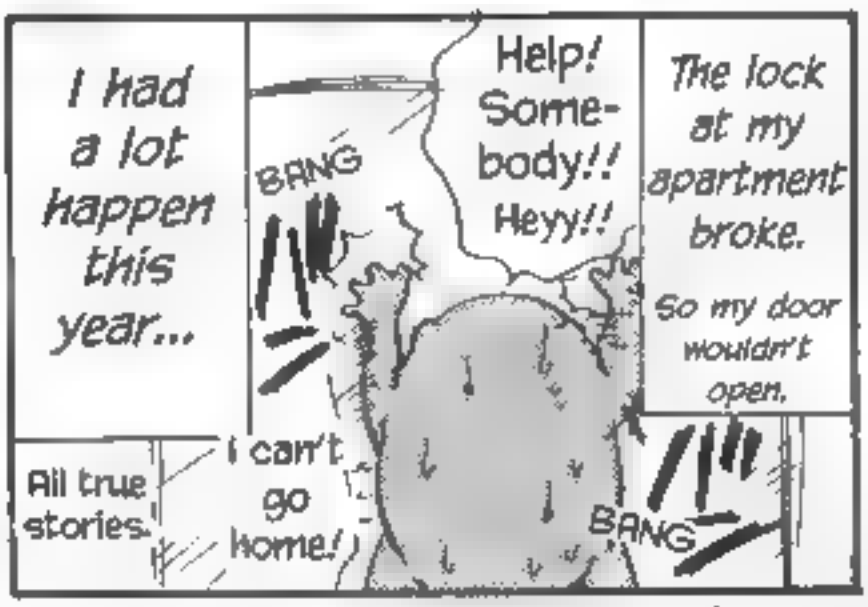
Special Thanks!!

Assistants: Tanaka-kun, Oshima-chan
Help: Takaeda, Keisui-sama
Editor: Mr. Morita
Comics Editor: Houjou-san
And all of the readers.

Roller Coaster Ride



Noooo!! It won't turn on!!
SILENCE!
My cell phone went blank.
Reasons still not known.
I got another phone but my memory was gone. (cry)



I'm looking forward to what will happen next year

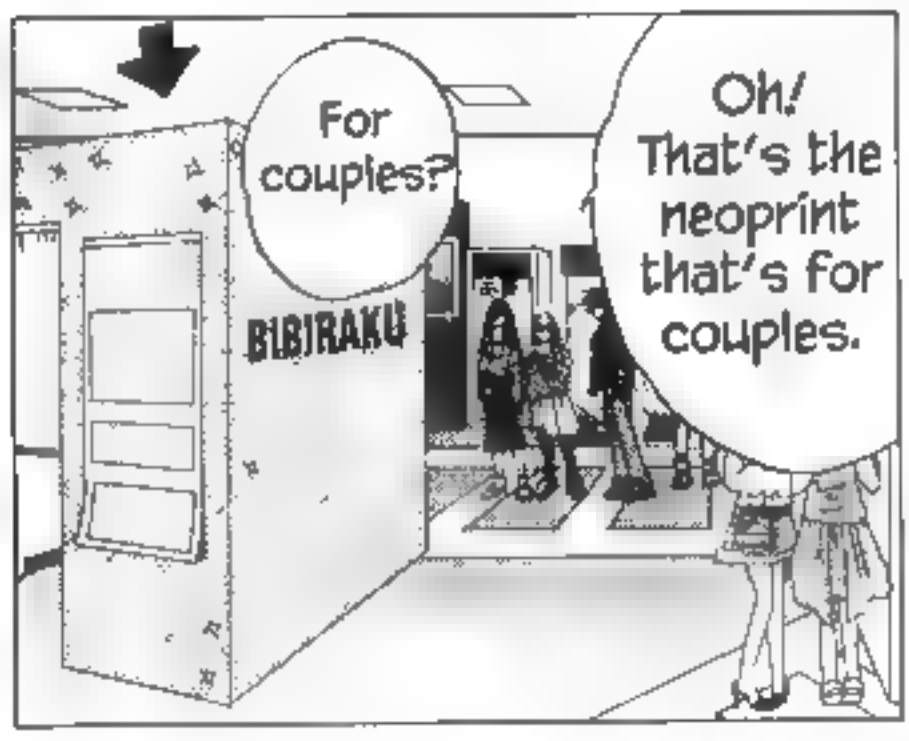
About the Author

Segami's first manga was published by Shogakukan in 1996. He went on to do a few other small projects, including two short stories entitled "Kagetora" in 2001 and 2002. The character proved to be popular with fans, so Segami began his first ongoing series, Kagetora, with Kodansha in 2003. The series continues to run today.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

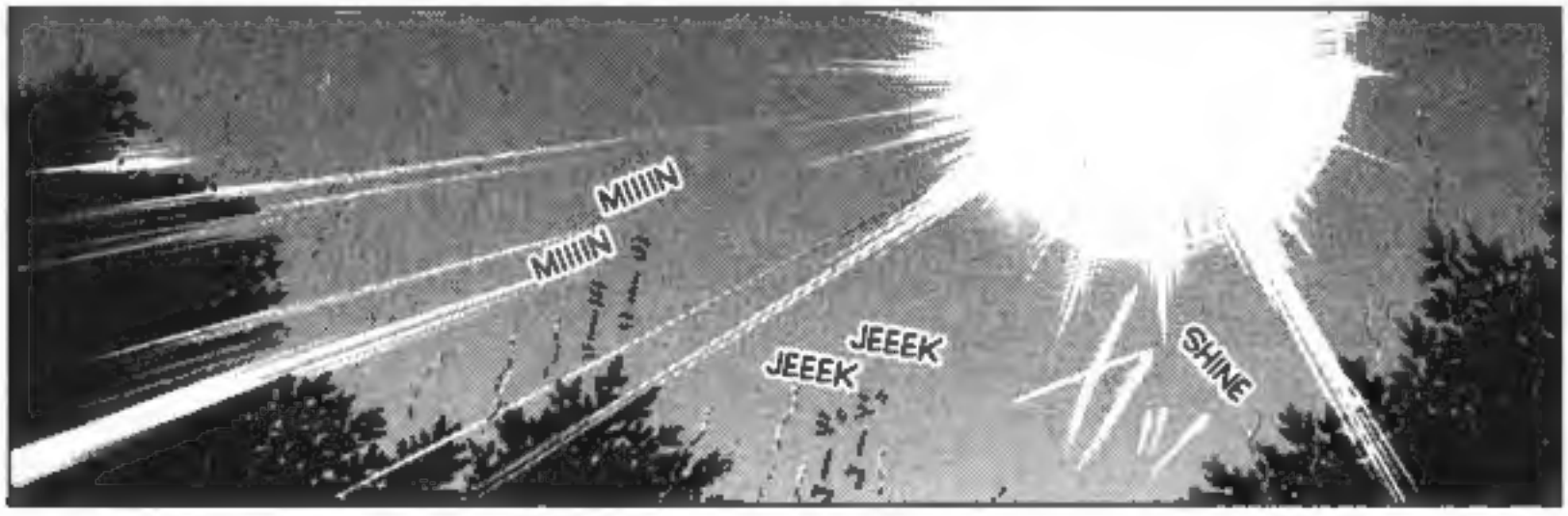
Beckoning gesture, Page 16
In Japan, the gesture of beckoning is performed by waving a hand downward, as opposed to the western way of waving a hand upward



***Bibiraku*/Neoprint, Page 20**
Bibiraku is the system's name. All the neoprint machines now have a name that sounds something like this.

Cicadas, Page 41

These are sounds made by cicadas. Almost anywhere you go in Japan, you will hear the annoying sounds of cicadas in the summer. This is a very common sound effect to let readers know it's summertime.



Clear Your Mind . . . Page 42

Kosuke's sign says "Clear your mind and you will find even fire cool." This is a Japanese proverb.

***Aiki Jujitstu*, Page 55**

Aiki Jujitsu is a Japanese martial art, in which artists use the attacker's force and redirect it against them.

***Naginata*, Page 58**

A *naginata* is a long-handled sword. It looks like a spear with a short sword at the tip of it. In modern Japan, it is usually a martial art for women.

Kamakura, Page 75
Kamakura is a city located in Kanagawa prefecture, which is southwest of Tokyo. It is a popular tourist spot because of all the temples and shrines, as well as the beach.

***Oyakume*, Page 81**
Oyakume translates as "a duty." Its use in this book is more formal, suggesting a specific and honored duty.

***Kunoichi*, Page 126**
A *kunoichi* refers to a female ninja. Historically, *kunoichi* were trained in deception and seduction, but in modern terminology, a *kunoichi* is simply a female ninja, trained in ninjutsu like their male counterparts.

Lions, Page 142
This is from a proverb "Lions throw their cubs down a cliff to test their strength." Lions do so because they want their cubs to be strong and independent. It speaks of parents who are strict with their children.

***Yukata*, Page 149**
Yukatas are kimonos worn mainly in the summer. They are made of lighter fabric than kimonos, and have fewer garments underneath. The word *yukata* comes from the words "bath" and "clothing." In old Japan, people wore clothing to take a bath, and something simpler and lighter than a *yukata* was worn. Eventually people came to wear it loosely after a bath, and in modern Japan people wear it at hot springs in Japanese hotels, festivals, or just simply around the house during the summer.

Jizou, Page 188

Jizou are Buddhist statues that protect the people, mainly children. What Segami is talking about here is the *migawari jizou*, which translates to "substitute *jizou*." The idea is that the *jizou* will take on your illness or suffering to cure you.

NHK and Domo-kun, Page 191

NHK is Nihon Housou Kyoku, which is the Japan Broadcasting Station. The government runs them. Domo-kun is a brown, fuzzy, boxlike character and is NHK's mascot.

A LOVE THAT CANNOT BE

Kagetora is a ninja with the most important duty in his village—to serve and instruct Yuki, the pretty young heir to the Toudou martial arts family. There's just one problem: Kagetora has fallen in love with her. More trouble looms when Yuki's overprotective best friend, Aki, needs someone to pose as her boyfriend. Although Aki has never trusted Kagetora, she now sees him in an attractive new light. But the biggest threat to Kagetora's hopes of romance turns out to be Yuki's intimidating grandmother, who threatens everything between master and ninja.

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